

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 FCSC-01 COME-00 SCI-06 /182 R

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APPROVED BY EUR:WJSTOESSEL,JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, OXEC, CA

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK CLAIMS; EXCHANGES AGREEMENT; TRADE;
BILATERAL

1. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL AND FOREIGN MINISTLR CHNOUPEK WHICH TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO METROPOLITAN MUSEUM DINNER OCTOBER 4. STOESSEL HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A FAIRLY EXTENDED CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE THEY WENT IN TO DINNER. THE CONVERSATION WAS LARGELY IN RUSSIAN.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER MENTIONED US-CZECH CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, SAYING HE WAS PLEASED THAT THEY HAD BEEN STARTED AND STRESSING THAT THE CZECH GOVERNMENT TOOK A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM AND WANTED TO FIND A SOLUTION. THE MINISTER SAID HE RATHER REGRETTED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS TO DATE HAD NOT BEEN EXCLUSIVELY POLITICAL, AS HE HAD HOPED THEY WOULD BE, BUT HAD GOTTEN INTO SOME TECHNICAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING CLAIMS. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THIS
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WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE, GIVEN THE COMPLICATED NATURE

OF THE SUBJECT MATTER. EVEN THOUGH THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES SEEMED FAR APART AT THE MOMENT, HE HOPED THEY COULD BE RECONCILED AND HE REPEATED AGAIN HIS FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT THE

ATTITUDE WE HAVE TAKEN CONCERNING THE RESTITUTION OF THE CZECH GOLD. HE SAID THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH OUR STAND.

3. THE MINISTER ALSO STRESSED CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S GREAT INTEREST IN PROCEEDING WITH TALKS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS TRADE. HE NOTED THAT THE TALKS ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE WERE TO BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH, AS HAD BEEN AGREED WHEN SECRETARY ROGERS VISITED PRAGUE IN JUNE. STOESSEL NOTED THAT WE ALSO WERE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING CULTURAL EXCHANGES AT THE SAME TIME, AND CHNOUPEK AGREED.

4. STOESSEL SAID THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO GENERAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING TRADE MATTERS, BUT THAT IT WOULD SEEM NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE THE CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE WE COULD GET INTO MUCH DETAIL REGARDING TRADE MATTERS. WHEN THE MINISTER ALLUDED TO MFN, STOESSEL SAID WE OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED THE IMPORTANCE CZECHOSLOVAKIA ATTACHED TO THIS QUESTION, BUT SAID THAT IT WAS A MATTER WHICH COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE ALSO POINTED TO THE DIFFICULTIES CONCERNING MFN WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ENCOUNTERED IN CONGRESS WITH THE TRADE BILL. THE MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH MFN, BUT THAT MUCH COULD BE DONE IN THE MEAN-TIME. HE STRESSED THE POTENTIAL OF THE CZECH MARKET IN TERMS OF U.S. EXPORTS AND SAID THAT THE CZECH GOVERNMENT WAS VERY FAVORABLE TOWARD DEVELOPING TRADE WITH THE U.S., AND FACILITATING VISITS OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ARRANGING CONTACTS FOR THEM WITH CZECH FIRMS.

5. THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD HOPED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK BRIEFLY WITH THE SECRETARY, BUT REALIZED THE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS OF THE SECRETARY. HE HOPED IT WOULD
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BE POSSIBLE AT SOME FUTURE DATE TO HAVE A TALK WITH HIM. KISSINGER

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